(d) Does not arise.

Tatkal scheme

253. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to cut the premium on talkal tickets and reduce its booking period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether premium on tatkal tickets is very high and Government proposes to reduce the amount; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The matter is under review.

Introduction of pilgrimage express trains

254. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has plans to introduce pilgrimage express trains throughout the country at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts Railways have put in to promote pilgrimage tourism in the country, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Facility for booking special trains by private parties is already in force on Indian Railways. Further, Special trains are run and trains are augmented to the extent feasible and justified to clear the extra rush of passengers during Kumbh Mela, Urs, Puja, Haj, Melas and other large festivals held in pilgrimage centers as per demand.

Cheaper food packets and mineral water at stations

255. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce cheaper food packets at various railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering providing mineral water to passengers at railway stations at subsidized rates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?